

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 080354

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM KINSHASA APRIL 08:

QUOTE S E C R E T KINSHASA 3315

NODIS

DEPT PASS CONTENTS OSD AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS CG BE FR

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: BELGIAN/FRENCH ASSISTANCE

REF: KINSHASA EWIT

BELGIAN EFFORT:

1. BELGIAN ASSISTANCE CONSISTS OF BOTH PERSONNEL AND MATERIAL
SUPPORT. PERSONNEL SUPPORT IS PRIMARILY IN THE AREA OF
LOGISTICS DRAWN FROM CURRENT BELGIAN MILITARY MISSION RESOURCES
IN KINSHASA. NO ADDITIONAL MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE ARRIVED IN

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COUNTRY. LOGISTICS TEAMS HAVE BEEN PLACED AT THE TWO LARGE INSTAL-
LATIONS IN KINSHASA (BARO AND BASE LOGISTIQUE) AND AT THE AMMUNI-
TIONS AND WEAPONS DEPOT IN MBANZA-NGUNGU. BELGIAN MILITARY
MISSION CHIEF HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION OF BRUSSELS TO PLACE A
SMALL LOGISTIC ADVISORY TEAM AT KAMINA. NO RESPONSE FROM BRUSSELS
AS YET. ADDITIONALLY, AN OPERATIONS ADVISOR AND LOGISTICS AD-
VISOR IS LOCATED AT DDN TO ASSIST GENERAL BABIA AND HIS STAFF.

2. WITH REGARD TO MATERIAL SUPPORT GOZ FORMALLY REQUESTED IN WRITING ON 7 APRIL A PRECISE LIST OF EQUIPMENT TO INCLUDE MAINLY AMMUNITION. IT ALSO CONTAINS A DETAILED LISTING OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES, RATIONS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT REQUESTED TO BE DELIVERED IN TWO INCREMENTS. FIRST INCREMENT, WEEK OF 11/16 APRIL, SECOND INCREMENT, WEEK OF 18/23 APRIL. WITH REGARD TO ARMAMENT, A WIDE VARIETY OF AMMUNITION UP TO 81MM MORTARS AMMO IS INCLUDED; HOWEVER, NO ADDITIONAL WEAPONS ARE REQUESTED. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT LIST CONTAINS 4 MILLION ROUNDS OF 5.56MM AMMUNITION FOR M 16'S. (WE WILL POUCH LIST IN NEXT AVAILABLE POUCH.)

3. BELGIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL INDICATE THAT THEY HAVE TRANSMITTED THE LIST TO BRUSSELS AND IN ALL LIKELIHOOD GOB WILL LOOK FAVORABLY UPON THIS REQUEST.

FRENCH EFFORT:

1. FRENCH EFFORT PRIMARILY IN ADVISORY/ASSISTANCE ROLE ATTEMPTING TO RE-ORGANIZE AND UPGRADE FAZ TACTICAL POSTURE. APPROXIMATELY 40 ADDITIONAL REPEAT ADDITIONAL FRENCH MILITARY HAVE ARRIVED IN-COUNTRY SINCE THE SHABA INVASION. IT APPEARS THEY HAVE A THREE-FOLD MISSION: A. NINETEEN PERSONNEL DEPARTED FOR KOLWEZI 7 APRIL TO ADVISE/ASSIST GENERAL SINGA AND TO PREPARE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE MOROCCANS. B. A TRAINING MISSION. FRENCH WILL TRAIN SELECTED PERSONNEL IN THE TACTICAL USE OF 81MM MORTARS AND GIVE TACTICAL TRAINING TO THE REMAINING MIKONDO BATTALION IN KINSHASA. THEY WILL COMMENCE TACTICAL TRAINING AT KAMINA FOR PAN-SECRET

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HARD CREWS. IN THIS REGARD IT IS PLANNED TO MOVE 15 PANHARDS FROM MBANZA-NGUNGU TO KAMINA BY AIR FOR TRAINING AND EVENTUAL COMBAT COMMITMENT. WHETHER IT IS PLANNED TO HAVE FRENCH ADVISORS ACCOMPANY IS NOT KNOWN. C. WORKING IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, FRENCH MILITARY WILL ASSIST IN GOZ INTELLIGENCE EFFORTS. A COL GRASI IS IN CHARGE OF THIS TEAM. WE ARE NOT SURE OF SPECIFIC MISSIONS NOR OF NUMBER FRENCH INVOLVED; BUT WE DO KNOW IF IT IS BEING COORDINATED WITH DDRSM.

2. WITH REGARD TO MATERIEL SUPPORT, GOZ VERBALLY REQUESTED OF THE FRENCH: A. M REPEAT M RATIONS. (NOTE: THESE ARE RATIONS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR A MUSLIM DIET.) B. WATER PURIFICATION TABLETS. C. SOME TENTAGE.

3. GOZ ALSO REQUESTED FRENCH TO DETERMINE DETAILS OF TONNAGE TO BE BROUGHT IN FROM MOROCCO.

COMMENT: 1. IT IS CLEARLY EVIDENT THAT THE FRENCH ARE IN THE FOREFRONT. THEY HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF MOROCCAN TROOPS FOR AT LEAST A WEEK. FURTHER THEY HAVE BEEN HOLDING IN-

NUMERABLE PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH BABIA AND MOBUTU, THE CONTENTS OF WHICH ARE NOT DISCLOSED TO USG COUNTERPARTS BY FRENCH. THE INFORMATION NOTED ABOVE ON FRENCH MILITARY WAS GIVEN TO CZAMISH BY GEN BABIA.

2. THE FRENCH MILITARY ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM LINKING KINSHASA AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY, NOT AT DDN, WITH KOLWEZI-KAMINA-LUBUMBASHI.

3. IT IS NOW KNOWN TO WHAT EXTENT FRENCH ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE PLANNING FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF EGYPTIAN TROOPS BUT IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT THEY ARE INTIMATELY INVOLVED. CUTLER UNQUOTE VANCE

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